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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In conformance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, Applicant states that each item of information contained herein was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the supplemental information disclosure statement. Also enclosed is a copy of the

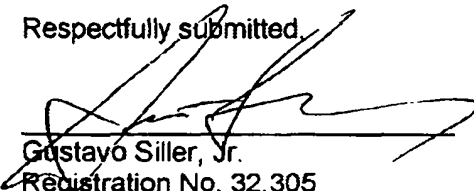
European Search Report issued on September 16, 2003 for the corresponding European Patent Application No. 01 30 4508 of the above-identified application.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement does not constitute an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. Section 1.56(b). Further, Applicants reserve the right to contest these references as prior art against the present application, and Applicants do not believe that the disclosure of these references, even if finally determined to be prior art, anticipates Applicants' invention or that these references make Applicants' invention obvious.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to this material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review the entire disclosure of these documents and make them of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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